

EMPLOYER STATUS DETERMINATION  
Georgia & Florida RailNet, Inc.

SEP 29 1999

This is the determination of the Railroad Retirement Board concerning the status of Georgia & Florida RailNet, Inc. (GFRN) as an employer under the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. § 231 et. seq.) and the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act (45 U.S.C. § 351 et. seq.).

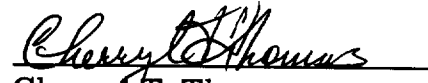
In Surface Transportation Board (STB) Finance Docket No. 33716, decided May 5, 1999, GFRN filed a notice of exemption to acquire and operate approximately 256.37 miles of rail lines operated by and either owned by, or under the control of, Gulf & Ohio Railways, Inc. (B.A. No. 5537). The 256.37 mile rail line includes: (1) the Albany Bridge, a line of railroad approximately 3,470 feet in length, extending across a bridge in Albany, Georgia; (2) the Adel-Foley Line, from milepost GB-1.0 at Adel, GA, to milepost GB-77.3 at Perry, Florida, and from milepost GB-77.3/LO-45.75 at Perry, FL, to milepost LO-39.0 at Foley, FL; (3) the Valdosta-Nashville Line, from milepost 30.65 at Valdosta, GA, to milepost 57.2 at Nashville, GA; (4) the Moultrie-Schley Junction Line, from milepost 27.1 at Moultrie, GA, to milepost 33.6 at Schley Junction, GA; (5) the Norman Junction Line, from milepost 29.52 at Norman Junction, GA, to milepost 33.52 at Moultrie, GA; and (6) the Thomasville-Camilla Line, from milepost ANC-692.08 at Thomasville, GA, to milepost ANC-728.0 at Camilla, GA.


Information regarding GFRN was provided by Mr. William E. Glavin, executive vice president of GFRN. According to Mr. Glavin, GFRN is a wholly-owned subsidiary of North American RailNet, Inc., a non-covered entity. (See B.C.D. No. 97-49.) The chief executive officer of GFRN is Mr. Robert F. McKenney. Mr. Glavin stated that on May 1, 1999, GFRN began rail operations and first compensated its 41 employees. Mr. Glavin further stated that GFRN expects to handle approximately 31,000 carloads of freight. Mr. Glavin also stated that GFRN interchanges with CSX Transportation (B.A. No. 1524) and Norfolk Southern Railway (B.A. No. 1525).

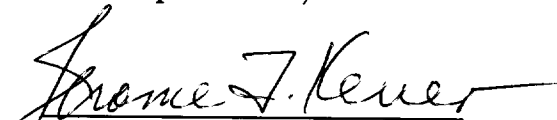
The evidence of record establishes that GFRN is a rail carrier operating in interstate commerce. Accordingly, it is determined that Georgia & Florida RailNet, Inc. became an employer within the meaning of section 1(a)(1)(i) of the Railroad Retirement Act (45 U.S.C. § 231(a)(1)(i)) and the corresponding provision

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of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act effective May 1, 1999, the date on which it began rail operations.

  
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